

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 IO-13 OIC-02 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-11 DOEE-00 SSO-00 /159 W
-----105941 141951Z/41

P 141852Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7199
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 03970

USMTN

ACTION STR

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY STR PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN
SUBJECT: MTN: CONSULTATIONS WITH IVORY COAST DELEGATE ON
US OFFERS AND WORK PROGRAM

1. SUMMARY: US MTN DEL MET BILATERALLY WITH IVORIAN
GENEVA DEL TO EXPLAIN IMPORTANCE OF US MTN OFFERS TO IVORY
COAST; TO ENCOURAGE IVORY COAST TO SUBMIT ANY ADDITIONAL
REQUESTS ASAP AND TO POINT OUT THE NEED FOR A RESPONSE TO
THE US INDICATIVE EXPORT INTERESTS LIST ASAP. IVORIAN
DEL WAS IMPRESSED WITH TREATMENT OF IVORY COAST EXPORT
ITEMS IN US OFFER; INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE PRESENTING
WITHIN A WEEK OR SO A REFINED LIST OF IVORY COAST REQUESTS;
AND INDICATED THAT THE IVORY COAST INTENDED TO RESPOND
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WITH MTN CONTRIBUTION BUT HE WAS EVASIVE ON THE QUESTION
OF TIMING. IVORIAN DEL ALSO ASKED A GREAT MANY QUESTIONS
ABOUT US TREATMENT OF REQUESTS FOR GSP REDUCTIONS IN THE
MTN CONTEXT. END SUMMARY

2. US MTN DEL (SMITH) MET WITH IVORIAN GENEVA DELEGATE
(AMANI-GUILBERT) ON FRIDAY, MARCH 3, TO EXPLAIN US OFFERS

ON AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS. US MTN DEL PROVIDED A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF HOW THE US OFFER WOULD AFFECT DUTIABLE IVORIAN EXPORTS TO THE US BASED ON 1976 US IMPORT DATA. ON INDUSTRIAL ITEMS (COVERED BY THE APPLICATION OF THE TARIFF FORMULA WORKING HYPOTHESIS) THE US IS OFFERING GREATER-THAN-FORMULA REDUCTIONS (IN ALL CASES TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE US AUTHORITY) ON 339,000 DOLLARS; WE ARE ALSO OFFERING FORMULA CUTS ON 29,000 DOLLARS AND LESS-THAN-FORMULA CUTS ON 38,000 DOLLARS (CUTS IN THIS GROUP AVERAGING ABOUT 25 PERCENT). WE ARE TAKING NO EXCEPTIONS ON ANY DUTIABLE INDUSTRIAL ITEM IMPORTED FROM THE IVORY COAST IN 1976. IN AGRICULTURE, WE ARE OFFERING DUTY ELIMINATION ON TSUS 15635 (COCOA BUTTER) AND TSUS 15640 (COCOA, UNSWEETENED AND COCOA CAKE) WHICH, AT 35 MILLION DOLLARS AND 5 MILLION DOLLARS, RESPECTIVELY, OF US IMPORTS IN 1976 ACCOUNT FOR ALMOST 98 PERCENT OF US AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS FROM THE IVORY COAST. COCOA BUTTER IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE IVORY COAST SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED FROM GSP ON THIS ITEM IN 1977 AND 1978. (FYI AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN: GLOBAL FIGURES CITED ABOVE ARE BASED ON US OFFER WHICH IS CLASSIFIED AS GATT SECRET AND DUE TO SENSITIVITY OF THE OFFER SHOULD NOT BE CITED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESS AND PRIVATE SECTOR CONTACTS. END FYI)

3. US MTN DEL NOTED THAT IN ORDER FOR THE US OFFER TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE IMPLEMENTED, PRINCIPAL DC BENEFICIARIES WOULD HAVE TO MAKE EQUIVALENT RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY BENEFICIARIES WOULD BE EXPECTED TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO TRADE LIBERALIZATION CONSISTENT WITH THEIR DEVELOPMENT, FINANCIAL AND TRADE NEEDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOKYO DECLARATION. THE US HAS GIVEN THE IVORY COAST A TROPICAL PRODUCT REQUEST LIST IN MAY, 1976 AND INDICATIVE LISTS FOR AGRICULTURAL AND NTM'S, NOVEMBER, 1977 AND FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS IN DECEMBER, 1977. THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERS THAT REQUESTS MADE IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN ON THE TABLE AND HAS THUS NOT REPEATED THESE REQUESTS IN LATER INDICATIVE LISTS. MTN DEL INDICATED THAT WHILE US IS OPEN TO DISCUSSION OF BOTH SCOPE AND SPECIFIC ITEMS ON WHICH IVORY COAST MAY OFFER CONTRIBUTIONS, THE INDICATIVE LISTS AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS REQUESTS ALREADY ILLUSTRATE A RANGE OF RESPONSES TO US OFFERS. MTN DEL SUGGESTED THAT AN EARLY INDICATION OF POSSIBLE IVORIAN OFFERS WOULD BE HELPFUL AND THAT WITH A JULY DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF THE MTN, THE TIME HAS COME FOR DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS.

4. AMANI-GUILBERT WAS OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED AT THE VERY GENEROUS US TARIFF OFFER AS IT WOULD APPLY TO THE IVORY

COAST. HE SAID HE WAS IN THE PROCESS OF FINALIZING A Refined LIST OF REQUESTS TO THE US IN TARIFFS (TO INCLUDE, AT MTN DEL SUGGESTION, INDICATIONS OF INTEREST IN MAINTAINING CURRENT OFFERS) AND THAT HE HOPED TO PROVIDE IT BY THE END OF THE WEEK OF MARCH 6. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE IVORY COAST WAS CONSIDERING MAKING AN MTN CONTRIBUTION BUT THAT THE MINISTERS IN ABIDJAN HAD NOT YET FOCUSED ON THE SCOPE OR TIMING OF ANY OFFER THE IVORY COAST MIGHT MAKE. AMANI-GUILBERT ASKED A GREAT MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT THE US REACTION WOULD BE TO A REQUEST FOR GSP TREATMENT ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS. MTN DEL RESPONDED THAT, WHILE THE US WOULD NOT REFUSE TO ACCEPT REQUESTS FOR GSP TREATMENT, WE DID NOT INTEND TO MAKE GSP OFFERS IN THE CONTEXT OF MTN NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT AN ADMINISTRA- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-11 DOEE-00 SSO-00 /159 W
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P 141852Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7200
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 03970

USMTN

PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO STR FOR ACTION, STR PASS CODEL

TIVE PROCEDURE SEPARATE FROM THE MTN EXISTED FOR HANDLING

OF BILATERAL REQUESTS FOR GSP TREATMENT. MTN DEL SOUGHT TO IMPRESS UPON AMANI-GUILBERT THAT THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF THE IVORY COAST WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY MFN REDUCTIONS WHICH ARE PERMANENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO COMPETITIVE NEED OR OTHER EXCLUSIONS. MTN DEL CITED THE EXAMPLE OF COCOA BUTTER AS A CASE WHERE GSP OFFERED LESS CERTAINTY OF ADVANTAGE THAN DID AN MFN REDUCTION.

5. COMMENT: THIS INITIAL CONSULTATION SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT IVORY COAST IS WILLING TO CONSIDER SOME MTN CONTRIBUTION, AND THE LACK OF ANY RHETORIC IN THE DISCUSSION SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT AMANI-GUILBERT TOOK SERIOUSLY THE US POINT THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO BEGIN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. END COMMENT.

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6. DRAFTED BY MSMITH. MCDONALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
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